

1 Chief District Judge Ricardo S. Martinez
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11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
12 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
13 AT SEATTLE
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16 EZZEDDIN EZZEDDIN,
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18 Plaintiff,
19 v.
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21 CHAD WOLF, *et al.*,
22 Defendants.
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24 CASE NO. C20-1359RSM
25 JOINT STIPULATION AND
26 ORDER HOLDING CASE IN
27 ABEYANCE
28

29 Noted for Consideration on:
30 **December 11, 2020**

31
32 **JOINT STIPULATION**
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34 On September 14, 2020, Plaintiff filed a complaint seeking an order from this
35 Court compelling the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) to
36 adjudicate Plaintiff’s I-589, Affirmative Asylum Application. Defendants’ response to
37 the complaint is due on December 28, 2020.

38 Plaintiff must be interviewed by asylum officers from USCIS’s San Francisco
39 Asylum Office prior to the adjudication of his asylum application. Normally, such
40 interviews would be conducted at the USCIS Seattle Field Office. Due to health
41 precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Asylum Office is currently
42 unable to send staff to the USCIS Seattle Field Office to conduct interviews. While
43 USCIS has offered to conduct Plaintiff’s interview in the San Francisco Asylum Office,
44 Plaintiff’s ability to travel at this time is prevented because of COVID-19.

1 Accordingly, the parties hereby STIPULATE AND AGREE, AND JOINTLY
2 REQUEST, that the Court hold this matter in abeyance for 120 days during which the
3 parties will re-evaluate whether an asylum interview may be conducted in Seattle or
4 Plaintiff may safely travel to the San Francisco Asylum Office. The parties further
5 request that the Court vacate current deadlines, including Defendants' deadline to
6 respond to the complaint. The parties shall file a joint status report within 120 days after
7 entry of this Court's order.

8 **SO STIPULATED.**

9 Dated this 11th day of December, 2020.

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ORDER

The parties having so stipulated and agreed, the Court hereby ORDERS that this action shall be held in abeyance for 120 days to allow USCIS to schedule Plaintiff's interview when it can be conducted in Seattle or when Plaintiff is able to travel to the San Francisco Asylum Office. The parties shall file a Joint Status Report with the Court on or before 120 days. All current deadlines, including Defendants' time to respond to the complaint, are vacated.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2020.


RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE